

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Sharing Center Recognized As “Community Champion of the Year”

Longwood, FL – May 30, 2007 – The Sharing Center announces that it has received the “Community Champion of the Year” award from the Seminole County Regional Chamber of Commerce. The award, presented at the Chamber Choice Awards event on May 11, is the result of a peer vote by Chamber members.

To help meet growing needs in the community, The Sharing Center this spring has expanded its food pantry by 60%, received grants to add two social workers to the staff, and introduced a new “Standing Here Today” program designed to provide life-changing experiences for low-income women who have a desire and have made a concerted effort to help themselves and their families improve their circumstances.

The Sharing Center is creating a “Non-Profit Hub” where people in Seminole County can easily visit several agencies for assistance and guidance in one stop. Each week, about 400 of Seminole County’s “working poor” turn to The Sharing Center, located on 17-92 in Longwood, for help with food, clothing and other basic and essential needs.

The Sharing Center eases the stressors of poverty – such as the anxiety of having nothing but a can of beans in your cupboard to feed your child and knowing it will be weeks before you get a paycheck again. This work prevents anger and despair that lead to depression, physical abuse, divorce and homelessness.

The Sharing Center has assisted with emergency needs in Seminole County since 1986. Approximately 99% of people seeking assistance at The Sharing Center live at or *below* poverty level, where a family of 4 struggles to pay rent, utilities, automobile costs, food, clothing, school supplies and other living expenses on an annual income of less than \$26,000.

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The Sharing Center is located in Fairmont Plaza, 600 N. Hwy. 17-92, Longwood, approx. 1 mile north of Hwy. 434. Phone 407-260-9155 ext. 13. *Easing the stress of families in financial crisis and helping to prevent homelessness*

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